

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. Mrs. Mackenzie was absent. She was attending the Foxborough Selectmen meeting. The following members were present.

Eric Kraus, Chairman
Michael Berry, Vice Chairman
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
Christopher Timson

Also present:
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator
Cindy Berube, Executive Assistant
Ava Martin, Principal Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Kraus announced Mrs. Mackenzie is in Foxborough attending the meeting on the proposal for a Casino. She will arrive at the meeting when that meeting is over.

SPONSORED AGENDA ITEMS

Firefighter Interview

Chief Bailey appeared before the Board with candidate Kevin Morrissey to fill the vacancy as a full time firefighter-paramedic and is asking for the Board's support. He attended UMASS and he has some experience in Firefighting. He has a lot of training.

Mr. Morrissey explained he was fortunate to participate in the internship with Walpole and got to work with the Firefighters. They made him feel comfortable and great working atmosphere. He has lived in town since the third grade and would like to become a Walpole Firefighter/Paramedic. The Board members asked Mr. Morrissey a few questions and were pleased to learn of his experience.

MOTION to appoint Kevin Morrissey to the Walpole Fire Department on January 2, 2012 as a firefighter/paramedic conditional upon successful completion of all pre-employment testing, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

Goals and Objectives

The Board reviewed the Goals and Objectives as amended. They would like to detail recent events outlining the issues the town is currently facing as abutters to Foxboro

Mr. Boynton noted they could add a statement that refers to what is going to take a large amount of time is the impacts of a possible casino on our board. These goals will

become part of people's goals and objectives. Being involved with Town Counsel is going to be within our office. At some level should have some departments working up existing needs.

Mr. Kraus sees five different and distinct issues. The possible casino resort, the MBTA train line, the development of East St parcel, the new Senior Center and the Common Street library. These issues can be time drains and that clearly needs to be stated. Mr. Boynton does not see them as goals, but operational duties they will have to deal with day to day.

Mr. Kraus noted this is a living document on record. He wants it known that these issues will have a significant amount of time to the town. There is pressing things that may get in the way of getting these accomplished. With the majority of goals is the availability to fund them.

M. Berry discussed updating review policies for Town Administrator and developing a way to include all five members. Mr. Kraus told the members he has received the reviews for staff and will be sending around for comment. Mr. Berry would like to update the evaluation process.

Mr. Boynton explained the Personnel sets the evaluations, all members of the Board review. We sat down with the Personnel Board and came up with new evaluation system; department heads evaluate no supervisory staff first. It will tie in nicely; we completed the non-union personal review. We want to look at it in the next ten months. We spent a lot of time on evaluations with department heads.

Mr. Berry feels our role as BOS as it relates to the five positions, I think they seem to be done in very different manners. I fell it is important part of our job. Lost in the shuffle. Set up a system that will outlast our board a future model for other boards. I think we can approve upon that. I think we can make tweaks. He would like to see the Board adopt in to their policy and procedures.

Mr. Kraus feels the objective is to take a good look at performance evaluation process. Improving the way we evaluate the 5 people. We are responsible for it and do a better job of going about it. Make it more inclusive and shared among the 5 members.

Mr. Gallivan noted that education was a previous goal and objective and wants to add it back in. Mr. Kraus understands but explained the Board has less of direct control over that and it is difficult to measure it.

Mr. Timson likes the idea of educational goals. He understands it would be difficult to measure themselves on that, but is important. The Board will add the educational goals into their document.

Mr. Berry would like to see them work with the Seniors on a new Senior Center.
Education

The Board made some minor changes to the wording and brought back before them for acceptance.

7:04 Television broadcast turned on.

12-26 Walpole High School Volunteers

Volunteers from the High School assisted Mr. LeBlanc in a new sign for the Walpole Cemeteries and Public Works building. Many thanks and much appreciation (Make certificate for each individual)

(Mr. Kraus read the following into record)

In keeping with recent tradition, I would like to provide an update on the rail expansion study done by Attorney Mirick ... as well as our actions regarding the proposed Foxborough casino project.

On the train topic first, as you will recall this Board, at our last meeting, voted to send letters of disapproval to both Attorney Mirick and Governor Patrick outlining our strong objections to that pilot plan and study. Those letters have been sent, and we have set-up a page on our Town web site with copies of those letters as well as contact information for our area legislators.

It is important to remind residents that they too can submit comments to Attorney Mirick, and doing so will ensure that even more voices are heard on the issue. In addition, Senator Timilty, Representative Winslow, and Representative Rogers have also sent letters along expressing their concerns and frustrations over this expanded rail proposal. We will continue to monitor this situation along with our legislative delegation, and will remain proactive in addressing further developments.

Turning to the potential of a casino resort... this has taken on an entirely new meaning since our last meeting. The information that Steve Wynn is actively pursuing a resort-style casino across from Gillette Stadium on the Walpole-side of Route 1 broke the day after our meeting.

Both Mr. Wynn and Mr. Kraft have actively engaged the media as well as some Foxborough officials over the past twelve days, and their efforts have clearly been aimed at winning support within Foxborough.

During that same period, members of this Board have clearly articulated the position of the Town of Walpole that this proposed development... a massive expansion of historic uses along Route 1 ... will have immediate and permanent negative effects on not only our community, but our region as well.

Members of the Board attended last week's Planning Board hearing in Foxborough to present our concerns, and we implored members of the Foxborough Board to work with us and address the very real concerns that • we present.

Our outreach and advocacy is continuing. Selectmen Timson perspective was included in the Globe's coverage and Mr. Boynton has been interviewed by Boston broadcast outlets. This evening as Selectwoman Nancy Mackenzie is in Foxborough as we speak representing our Town before their Board of Selectmen on this casino topic.

Our Town Administrator will be working with his colleagues from other communities bordering Foxborough and others in the area to identify actual impacts that we would share in dealing with the project. And, we have been firm and consistent in our presentations with the media, and our message is clear - we will take all actions necessary to protect our community and advocate for our residents.

Part of that protection has also involved engaging our legal counsel to research and identify options that the Town has available to us in dealing with this casino proposal. After a preliminary review by Counsel, we are learning that the recently enacted Gaming legislation is not as desirable to Walpole as we would otherwise wish for and are in the process of formulating our potential legal position and response which we will present as soon as we can.

Be assured that our resolve and our feelings about this dramatic change to our area landscape will not waiver. We have yet to see any identifiable benefit to the Town

What we have seen is the same what everyone in both Walpole

of Walpole, and in fact, we have yet to see any details on this plan as well. Foxborough has seen to date ... a concept only. And to date, we and our citizens are far from fond of the concept.

As for our Board, we will follow the law and all new developments regarding this proposal, and we will continue our advocacy on behalf of Walpole and her residents. While that advocacy may occur in different forms, our message will be consistent.

Mr. Boynton added that changes are happening every day, Steve Crosby has been appointed as a member to the gaming commission. Talked about how the members will be appointed. We have spent a lot time reviewing the legislation. Most of the decision will occur beyond our border. It is a two part process in Foxboro. Zoning, and then they will be required to have a ballot vote. The only community to get a vote. There are opportunities, potentially, but where we have no voice, those are positions people can advocate this. There are sites in Milford and Suffolk downs.

We have put on the website the information to contact reps. To voice their concerns. We have been active with counsel and the law does not put us in a strong position.

Mr. Timson added we are advocating, if there are voters out there that have a strong opinion should voice thru their representatives. The Town of Foxborough was gracious in our concerns. They permitted Nancy, Town Administrator and myself to speak as well as other residents from Walpole. They voted against the proposal. I think we should send them a letter for their courtesy and taking into account our concerns and voting against that proposal.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to send a letter to the Foxborough Planning Board thanking them for their hospitality and taking into account our concerns and allowing us to speak at the meeting and their vote, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

License Renewals, Class I,II, III, Entertainment, Lodging, Motels and Parking

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to renew the Class I,II, III, Entertainment, Lodging, Motels and Parking licenses for 2012 as presented, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

12-20, 12-21, 12-22 Gift Acceptances

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to accept the gifts from the Campfire Boys and Girls for the Turner Pond Lodge Program, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to accept the gift from various donors for the Council on Aging programs, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to accept the gift from Complete Building Services for the Council on Aging, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

12-28 Gift Acceptance, Trails Subdivision

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to accept the gift in the amount of \$25,000 to be deposited into an account created by the Treasurer to address construction of streets within Pinebrook Estates, seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 4-0-0

12-23 Hessco, Road Race

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the Road Race for March 17, 2012 with the approval of the Police department, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

12-24 One Day Liquor

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the one day liquor request for the Knights of Columbus for January 8, 2012, seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 4-0-0

OPEN FORUM

William Hamilton is concerned about the upcoming New England Patriots Games. They Christmas Eve and New years day. There is a lot of traffic on Summer Street and would like to see a police detail. He is concerned with the town's liability with the railroad crossing. Chief Stillman explained they have seven details in S. Walpole at various locations.

Mr. Hamilton felt T. Counsel should think about our liability. Mr. Boynton explained the town has zero jurisdictions over that. We do not own it and not take the tracks by eminent domain.

Alcohol and Drug Task Force Committee

Ms. Chappell introduced the Task Force members. They put together a report entitled "Drug Issues Facing the Town of Walpole". She noted Deputy Chief Carmichale put a lot of it together.

Trends in the Northeast Region has been the abuse of opiate based narcotics. Since January of 2011 the town has experienced 17 overdoses and Norfolk County has experienced over 50 fatal heroin overdoses. She went on to discuss the various gateway drugs and the theory that use of these may lead to other drug use.

Initiation to drugs usually involved a gateway drug and can begin as early as 11 years of age and decreases after 20 years of age. Opiate-based pills are typically one dollar per milligram and the cost for heroin is far less. The youth in Walpole initiate to the Gate Way Drugs of alcohol, marijuana, and cigarettes. The marijuana of today is much more harmful. The age of onset for marijuana use is 13-14 with some starting as early as 10.

The age of onset for alcohol is also 13-14. In 2009, the age of onset for marijuana was 22.4% and by 2011, it increased to 29.7%. Nationwide 21.1% of students had drunk alcohol for the first time before age 13.

As a community, we have gotten people together and doing things, we feel we can make a difference, thru time we can change the attitude around drinking. They have sought help anywhere we can, collaborating with the DA's office, what we want to do as a coalition.

Create partnerships within our community. It takes the whole community, to fix the problem. We cannot pick one solution. We have to combat it by different ways including, Education, youth activities, and enforcement.

Need to turn around the perception that everyone is doing it and know the warning signs. To increase youth activities in the town if they are busy they will stay out of trouble. We want to make sure our laws are reasonable. We think that law is one reason we have seen an increase in town. Want to get the police department to interact with the youth.

The total budget they are asking for \$16,725. Mr. Boynton noted the allocation and expenditure of funds could come from police and supplemental from a Reserve Fund. The accounts should be managed within the police dept. We can come up with a funding mechanism; can come back with a subsequent Fin com meeting.

Mr. Timson spoke of having the kids currently at the age of onset come up with a short type of film, positive message. Suggested having some type of contest with the older kids spreading the message. Hopeful, this might be used in more than Walpole. Having police officers interacting more with the youth in a more relaxed way is important. They need to have a trust relationship that develops. I think the concepts are good and worthy. He noted there has been no increase in Liquor license fees for some time about. Should have an outreach with the license holders and see what they can do to help. They need to be sending positive message. Get other businesses involved.

Do a survey of the surrounding communities of their liquor license fees.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson that we support the request from the Walpole coalition for drugs and alcohol and task force and doing so we would support the Police chief make a reserve fund transfer request for \$15,000 for this year and get the funds in place, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

R. Fucile, T. Clerk , Precinct Changes

Mr. Fucile explained the results from the U.S. Census Bureau. It does not require the Selectmen's approval but he wanted them to be aware of the outcome. There have been changes to the some precincts. A letter will go out to the residents. Most of the changes were in Precincts 1,2,3, and 4. He further stated all RTM will be required to run for office. In ten years will have to do this again and if we reach 28,000 residents you will have to add another precinct. After 9 precincts you go to wards but he does not see that every happening.

Town Administrator's Update

Mass DOT Traffic Sign Program- the state is working with communities to get funding for new signage, pavement markings etc stop signs. He would like the Board to give me the authority to sign the request to proceed.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to grant the Town Administrator the authority to work with the DOT, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

Library Project Update & Generator Status- rapidly approaching the end of project. There are some housekeeping issues. Jim has given you a note with the generator; he is going to proceed getting that out to bid. If there are No objections for Mr. Johnson to go forward for bidding.

Mr. Berry wants to know when they should discuss any unspent money.

Washington Street Project- residential area school involved and coordinated effort, this is a state supervised project.

Holiday hours- Explained the holiday hours for Christmas and New Years. He would like to give staff Friday off.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to allow staff four hours off on Friday December 23, 2011, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 4-0-0

December 27th- Mr. Timson will not be here and Walpole Park South is on the agenda. If we are going into Executive Session so we can postpone.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Timson in light of Mrs. Mackenzie being at Foxboro, I know we have issues with members not being present. Just past a law in November to allow members to participate remotely. Thinks we should consider the fact when occasions. We should promote participation and do this favorable.

Mr. Berry believes Foxborough or Mansfield has tried to move it forward, Mansfield may have adopted it and also the iPad. We may consider putting on the ballot on a non binding questions. It would be a substantial change and is worth investigating. Mr. Boynton will look into this and bring back to the members.

Minutes

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy relating to collective bargaining with the Clerical Union as the Chairman has declared that discussing the offer in open session may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the town and will return to open session for the purposes of adjourning, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED by roll call; Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Timson-Aye, Mr. Berry-Aye and Mr. Kraus-Aye

Board returned to open session. The next meeting scheduled for January 10th will be held on the 3rd as the Board members wish to attend the Foxborough Board of Selectmen meeting on the 10th.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOED 4-0-0

